

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018



**Blessed
are you
among
women**



**and blessed
is the
fruit of
your womb**

Mass Intentions For The Week

| | | | |
|---|----------|---|--|
| Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve | 3:00 pm | Mass in Church | |
| | 3:00 pm | Mass at the Motherhouse Chapel | |
| | 5:00 pm | Mass in Church | |
| | 5:00 pm | Mass at the Motherhouse Chapel | |
| | 7:00 pm | Mass in Church | |
| | Midnight | Mass in Church | |
| Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day | 9:00 am | Mass in Church | |
| | 10:30 am | Mass in Church | |
| | 12:00 pm | Mass in Church | |
| Wednesday, December 26 Saint Stephen, The First Martyr | 9:00 am | Miriam "Jane" Foley | The SFX School Staff |
| Thursday, December 27 Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist | 7:45 am | Word & Communion Service | |
| | 9:00 am | Antonio & Teresa Franzese Jackie & Tom Morsch 64th Wedding Anniversary | |
| | | | |
| Friday, December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs | 7:45 am | Word & Communion Service | |
| | 9:00 am | Word & Communion Service | |
| | 4:00 pm | Wedding-Carolyn Cooper & John Wons | |
| Saturday, December 29 Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr | 9:00 am | Roger Paulsen John Barry | The Church Family Dave Donahue |
| | 9:30 am | Sacrament of Reconciliation | |
| | 4:15 pm | Sacrament of Reconciliation | |
| | 5:00 pm | Betty Stallings Terry Conwell Michael Bannach | Jim & Grace Zwit Lillian Bannach Lillian Bannach |
| | | | |
| Sunday, December 30 | 7:30 am | Francis Aubry | The Fitzgerald Family |
| | 9:00 am | People of the Parish | |
| | 10:30 am | Jerry Tazic Grace Devitt | The Rogowski Family The Rogowski Family Bob & Marie O'Malley |
| | 12:00 pm | Dorothy Lynch, CSJ | |
| | 6:00 pm | People of the Parish | |
| | | | |

Please Pray For...

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tony Banda | Edward Kudia |
| Jim Boardman | Betty Kuhl |
| Jay Carroll | Marion Lucas |
| Sam Cibula | Elaine Michalek |
| Terry Conwell | Emmett Miller |
| Anthony Dina | Patrick Morgan |
| Blake Donegan | Mike Morrison |
| Fr. Dave Dowdle | Amanda O'Brien |
| Pat Eaton | Jane O'Reilly |
| William Egbert | Ryan Patyk |
| Lauren Ellsworth | Donna Pekarek |
| Baby Morison Fennessy | Carissa Pessetti |
| Lily Fielding | James Pridmore |
| Baby Collins Fitzpatrick | Baby Madison Raupp |
| Lilli Gregory | Anna Rose |
| Wilson Gregory | Marilyn Rutkowski |
| Patricia Hassler | Anthony Scafide |
| Martha Heraty | Matthew Schiek |
| Linda Hillsman | Greyson Stanley |
| Rose Ilo | Sarah Stanley |
| Mary J. | Kate Frugoli Sullivan |
| Jane Jacobson | Anne Titzer |
| Theresa Kandall | Michael Ungari |
| Mike Kelly | Amanda Valerugo |
| Benny Kilman | Gregory Van Gorp |
| Jerry Kolman | Josita Witte |
| Virginia Kottaridis | |

Prayers are requested for our relatives and friends who are sick. To add a name to the prayer list, please call the rectory at 708-352-0168.

Names of the sick are listed for two months in the bulletin. If there is a recurrence of illness, names can be listed again. Know that our parish prays daily for the sick and the dying.

Born Into Eternal Life



Please remember in your prayers,
those who have died, as well as their families:

Lois Reven
Mother of Leon, Mother-in-Law of Connie,
Grandmother of Julia and Grace



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Weddings

Carolyn Cooper & John Wons

Pastor's Notes

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste....
Luke 1:39

In Luke's gospel, Mary leaves Nazareth for the hill country, in haste, following her acceptance of what Gabriel has asked of her. Her joy is overflowing and needs to be shared with another who experiences that same joy. And so, she seeks out her cousin Elizabeth, who, Gabriel has assured Mary, is entering the last trimester of a pregnancy that Elizabeth had long hoped to experience. The joyful blessings brought by the angel Gabriel come with their challenges. Elizabeth is advanced in age; this last part of her pregnancy, far from the city and perhaps confronting the scorn of some who think she is foolish for conceiving this child, is both physically and spiritually difficult. Mary has not completed the marriage rituals with Joseph, who knows that he cannot be the father of her child and is unsure of how to respond to Mary's news. These two women embrace one another, in both their joy and their struggles, grounded in the lives that stir within them and fill them with hope.

To whom do you go, in haste or in measured steps, when your heart overflows with joy and your mind and body tell you that this joy will have a price? What "cousin" has God placed in your life for mutual support, encouragement, and joyful thanksgiving? On this eve of Christmas Eve, with whom will you share a quiet moment in prayer, over a cup of tea, through a phone conversation or visit, or even in a gentle memory? I encourage you to gather with your fellow Marys and Elizabeths this Monday or Tuesday as we take in the awesome wonder of God made human so that we might experience anew the God who continues to take flesh in open hearts.

We welcome all who fill our parish home with comfort and joy in our Christmas celebrations, and who carry the blessings of our gathering to all you meet in these days. However frequent or infrequent your presence; however strong or fragile your connection to God; however firm or confused your relationship with Church leaders at this moment in your time; whether visiting from a neighboring village or afar; may you *always* experience a sense of belonging in this space. May you experience in Christmas the wonders of God's love. May Emmanuel, God-with-us, bless our world through us as we go forth to love and serve the Lord in our loving service of others.

A Blessed Christmas Season to you all and you hold dear. Christmas blessings to all beyond these walls who may look to us for hope and support.

Advent Peace,

J. Bill

Scripture Reflections

Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
Liturgy Planning Team #2
Bernadette McMahon, Renee Nutt, Diane Redmond, Katie Stetz, Joan Stopka

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Mary had said, "Yes" to the angel. This young, simple girl was initially filled with such profound doubt. She was anxious, afraid and overwhelmed by what was being revealed to her but she still said, "Yes". The fact that Elizabeth is pregnant at such an advanced age gives her some comfort that the angel's promise must be true.

The baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps with the recognition of the presence of new hope and joy. Elizabeth herself is genuinely pleased to see Mary. Her greeting is spontaneous and filled with love. She can plainly see Mary's radiance and feel her holiness. She is humbled to have Mary come to her.

"Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." There is new hope for us too. We look forward to celebrating a chance for a new beginning in our lives too. We are grateful for Mary's response and we too are humbled by the willingness of Jesus to come into our lives in the simple form of a little child. He needs our love and acceptance to grow in our lives.

Something beautiful is about to happen. Can you feel it?

Reflection for Christmas
Liturgy Planning Team #3
George Rutkowski, David Sherman, Barb Kalnes, Charles Brewick, Gertrude Nalumansi

The miracle of Christmas is about God finally finding room in the inn, in our hearts where Jesus can be born; it is about opening our hearts so that Jesus can fill them with his life, peace and joy. Christmas is about being like the shepherds who open their hearts to the Good News proclaimed by the angel, and going with haste to share that good news. Like the shepherds, let us go to Bethlehem and see what has happened according to the message of the Angel, who brings news of great joy. "Today a Savior has been born" to us. Before the Nativity Scene, let us meditate with Mary and Joseph on the mystery of God's presence, and express our joy in the words of the Angel: "Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to people who enjoy his favor". Christmas is about making room for Christ in our hearts; making room for all people into our lives, especially the less fortunate. As we make room for Christ in our hearts, we pray that Christ brings us great joy, peace and true happiness. Let us ask Him to touch our hearts with the holy joy of the shepherds. Let us go joyfully to Bethlehem, to the baby Jesus, our Lord, who today once more comes to meet us.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The birth of Jesus is framed by two important journeys.

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem...with Mary... (Luke 2:4-5)

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt... (Matthew 2:14)

There is the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus and the journey of the Holy Family to Egypt as refugees from the violence of King Herod.

These journeys mirror our world and our own lives. Especially in this season, we journey to contemplate the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us at his birth. We are also aware of the perilous journeys of so many who flee violence or who must live surrounded by it. May this season of renewal help us to set our sights on the Lord's promise to bring us safely home as we make our way to him. May that promise renew our joy and our hope.

God bless you and all your loved ones in this holy season.

Card. Blase J. Cupich

ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO



A Bit of History of the St. Francis Xavier Parish Community

In the beginning: 1890 – our parish begins

A letter of appointment: dated October 15, 1890 by Patrick A. Feehan, Archbishop of Chicago to Rev. James M. Hagan, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Maple Park, IL.

“I now appoint you pastor of LaGrange, to form a congregation in that place...As winter will soon be approaching it will be well that you go there as soon as possible.”

There was neither church, nor school, nor parochial house. His parish had no name. The population of LaGrange was approximately 1,500 at that time and there were 94 Catholic families listed. This was the core of the congregation which the new pastor was to form in a little village that had been incorporated just eleven years before.

It took Father Hagan just two weeks to take up residence in a house on Madison Avenue. He said the first Mass for his parishioners on All Saint's Day, November 1, 1890 in the home of Dr. George Marshall Fox, prominent physician and pioneer settler, whose wife was Catholic. (Dr. Fox's home at 60 S. LaGrange Road, which later became an historic landmark, was torn down in 1950.)

In the year 1890, Leo XIII was pope, Patrick Feehan, the first archbishop of Chicago, and Benjamin Harrison was President of the United States. There were thirty-eight states in the Union, and in LaGrange, the Village Hall and the Post Office were located in single stores between Fifth Avenue (now LaGrange Road) and Ashland on Burlington. Ogden Avenue had just been paved with red brick, with traffic so light that weeds grew up between the bricks.

The 1930s – our church is built

“The dark days of the depression were upon us and it was nip and tuck for all organizations to keep their heads above water.” In the late 1920s, SFX had 340 families, 1,429 people, and 240 school children, and Cardinal Mundelein advised Father Nawn to build a new church for his growing parish. LaGrange, of course, was growing too, with population of about 10,000.

The cornerstone was laid on Sunday, June 1, 1930 and the dedication by Cardinal Mundelein took place on Sunday, June 14, 1931. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. Edward Dondonville. The beautiful dedication sermon, preached by Father Daniel A. Lord, S.J., contained these thoughts:

“In the heart of every man or woman is a great, deep, tender love for sacred places, and today we have gathered for the dedication of a beautifully sacred place. This is your Holy Land, sacred by the daily reenacted drama of Jesus, sacred because of its associations with the heart of each of you, sacred because each parish church is a symbol of all that the Church believes.”



2016 – Unity Hall is built

Arising from parishioners' desire for a gathering space and for additional meeting space for ministries (and for more bathrooms, too!), funds were raised to build Unity Hall, the room adjacent to the church, accessible through the narthex and west transept. Please step in during the Christmas season to enjoy the stained glass windows, the crèche, and the Christmas tree (decorated with star ornaments from our parishioners).

The 1890s and 1930 portion of this article were taken from our 75th Anniversary Book.

Christmas Flower Donation

If you would like to donate to the Christmas Flowers in Memory and/or Honor of a Loved One, please take an envelope that can be found at the entrances of the church. We will publish the names in the New Year.

Thank you for making our worship space prayerful and lovely for this liturgical season.



In observance of the Christmas Holiday, the Rectory will close at 12:00 Noon on Monday, December 24 and will reopen on Wednesday, December 26 at 8:30 am.

Tax Reform and Charitable Giving

Last December, Congress approved the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which led to the most far-reaching changes to the tax code in more than 30 years. Taxpayer ability to take itemized deductions is subject to certain limitations. As a result of this tax code change, SFX has seen an increase in donations from donor-advised funds in the past few months as parishioners adjust their giving strategies.

Other strategies that could help taxpayers maximize the benefits of the new tax laws on charitable giving include:

- If you are age 70½ or older, consider making a tax-free gift to SFX through an IRA charitable rollover.
- If you have experienced gains in the financial markets this year, consider donating appreciated securities to avoid paying capital gain taxes.

SFX does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor to evaluate your tax deductibility limits and benefits for any of these options.

A CHRISTMAS WELCOME TO ALL!

We warmly welcome all who have come today to celebrate this glorious feast!

We welcome the stranger, the traveler and guest!

We welcome our students home from college for a good rest!

***Welcome, parishioners who moved far away,
but now join us today as old friends and new guests!***

***Welcome, all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith;
and hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas
to come back again and again!***

***Welcome, faithful parishioners, loyal and true;
may the Lord bless you for all you do!***

Welcome to all!

May our gathering this day gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds.

We, after all, are one People of God – redeemed by the Light.

May we walk by the Light, and live by the Light – together in love!



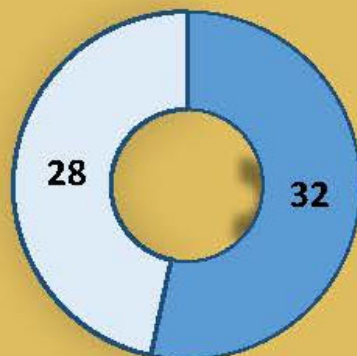
Christmas Offertory

Our Christmas Offertory budget is \$155,000. The collections received at this time of the year support the beautiful Advent and Christmas liturgies, creating many family memories which will be cherished for a lifetime.

Your generous financial gift also helps us to support those in need through the many programs and outreach we offer here. Please be as generous as you are able. Thank you.

To make your contribution online, text JOYFUL to 708-340-6630. When prompted, click on the link and follow the steps to complete your transaction. You can also text DONATE to the same number to contribute to regular Sunday Offertory.

PROGRESS ON ONLINE GIVING GOAL



- New Online Donors as of 12/10/18
- Needed to Meet Goal by 12/31/18

Advent Week 4



*“May the **God of Hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Romans 15:13

Stewardship...

is our willingness to acknowledge the blessings of our lives, and reflect upon ways to continue sharing time, talent, and treasure, as we joyfully prepare for the coming of Christ anew in our hearts.

Thank you for considering these options for sharing time (with God and others), talent, and treasure.

Prayer & Reflection

Continue 6 minutes a day in prayer with the *Little Blue Book*.

The Little
Blue Book
2018-2019

Daily Mass

Mon-Wed, 7:45 & 9 am;
Thurs & Sat, 9 am.
Fri., 7:45 am.

Communion Service:

Thurs, 7:45 am & Fri., 9 am

Individual Prayer

The church is open daily for prayer, 7:30 am to 2 pm.

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Masses—

- ◆ **In SFX Church**
3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm
- ◆ **In Congregation of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel**
3 pm & 5 pm

Midnight Mass in Church —
Caroling begins at 11:30 pm

Dec. 25

Christmas Day Masses—
in SFX Church:
9:00 am, 10:30 am & Noon

Dec. 29

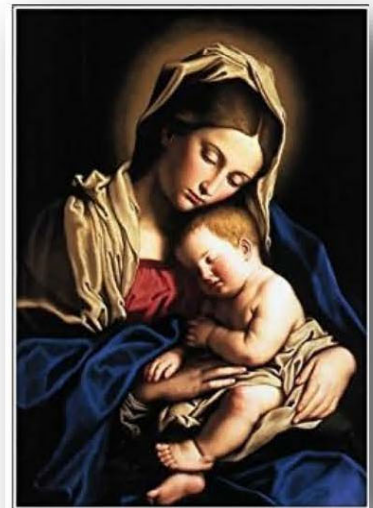
Family Outreach Ministry Service Opportunity

Ring in the New Year with a service project at Feed My Starving Children facility in Aurora, a two-hour block of time between 11:30 am and 11:30 pm. We will be packing meals for the hungry. Minimum age requirement of 5 years old, and there is a 1-1 adult to child ratio for children in grades K-2. Contact Rachel Peterson for details and to register:
peterstonrtw@sbcglobal.net.

Jan. 1, 2019

Solemnity of Mary

Mass at 5 pm, Dec. 31, and
10 am on Jan. 1





Our sincere thanks to those who helped plan and host the **Advent Night of Hope:**

- The newly created Spiritual Life Board
- Parishioner reflections:
Clare Froemel, Linda Hillsman (shared by Katie McCarthy), Brian David & Heather Fitzpatrick
- Fr. Keith Muccino, S.J. who presented: *Rediscovering Hope*
- Music / Musicians:
Erica Hearn, Rick Olund, Barb Kalnes & Tony Pangan
- AV Presentation: Flo Christiano

Fr. Keith Muccino, S.J., presented "Hope—the Forgotten Virtue."



Within his talk, he shared wisdom from an article by Paul Wadell on the subject of Hope, which appeared in *America Magazine*. Below are some of the thoughts shared. Consider joining us in prayer around these ideas.

We don't hope for too much, we settle for so little.

Hope is born from the desire for something good that is both difficult, yet possible to attain.

God is both the object of our Hope and the means to attain it.

Hope diminishes when we lose sight of:

- Who we are—humble creatures, wayfarers, pilgrims on a journey to God, helping others on their journey.
- Where we are going—to the heavenly banquet (reign of God).

To live in Hope is to want nothing less than what God wants for us.

Hope frees us from our needless preoccupations - we no longer have to be anxious, fearful, calculating and timid.

Hope is not something we achieve; it is a gift!

Hope gives us the freedom and courage to take holy risks in life by giving life our best shot!

Hope frees us to be merciful, compassionate, patient and generous. It calls us to listen to and be present, to encourage and support one another.

Hope grows when it is shared; it blooms when it is given away to others!

We are called by Hope to attend to the needs of others and do what we can to work for the world's healing.

Hope prevents us from becoming so comfortable with the pleasures of life that the possibility of being on a journey to something greater never occurs to us!

Beware of the "culture of superficiality"- letting our hearts be captured by things whose goodness is undeniably real but inherently limited.

We mustn't think that Hope focuses so much on the next life, that it keeps us from the work that needs to be done in this life!



SAFE AND SOBER HOLIDAYS

Did you know that 10-13% of all the people in any community live with the disease of alcoholism or other chemical dependence? This includes 10-13% of our parish community. Each person who lives with a chemically dependent person also has a disease that negatively affects the lives of at least four other persons. 40% of the members of any community, including ours, know someone, or are concerned about someone, or are angry at someone who lives with this progressive and potentially fatal disease.

If you care about someone who has a drinking or other drug problem, I encourage you to get help for yourself. Go to ALANON if you are affected by someone's chemical dependency. Go to FAMILIES ANONYMOUS if you are the relative or friend of a young person with drug or behavioral problems. Go to ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS if you are the adult son or daughter of someone with an alcohol or other drug problem. Get help for yourself before you attempt to intervene in the life of someone who is addicted. This is the best gift you can give to someone who is dependent on alcohol or another drug.

Here are some healthy guidelines for holiday drinking and entertaining.

J. Bill

HOLIDAY DRINKING GUIDELINES

1. Drink only if you can. If you have been told not to drink, or if you take medication that does not mix with alcohol, don't drink.

Just one drink can hurt you.

2. Don't drink more than one drink per hour. If you can drink more than this without feeling any effect, you have a symptom of the disease of alcoholism.

A high tolerance for alcohol is a sign of disease – not a good thing.

3. Don't drink if you "don't drink." Don't take a beverage to avoid hurting your host or hostess.

Not drinking is okay.

4. Alcohol mixes better with the gasoline in a car than with the driver. If you plan on having a "really good time," then plan on not driving.

Drunk drivers can kill people.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING GUIDELINES

1. Never tell a guest, "Aw, c'mon. One drink won't hurt you. It's Christmas!"

The calendar has no effect on the effects of alcohol.

2. Don't serve more than one drink per hour to any guest. Minimize the time before serving food.

Don't poison your guests.

3. Don't give a guest who "doesn't drink" a hard time. Don't argue when someone says, "No thanks."

Provide non-alcoholic refreshments and let your guests choose.

4. Hot coffee or cold towels only make a person more awake. If a guest is drunk, do not let them drive. Get them a ride or cab or let them sleep it off.

Drunk drivers can kill people.

Surviving the Holidays

Some family situations can make the holidays difficult: there's no money; the kids are at the other parent's house; a loved one has died this past year. These top ten tips for "Surviving the Holidays" can help you exchange the dread, anxiety, or loneliness for a time of inner peace and hope.

- 1. Have realistic expectations.** This year WILL be different; don't try to make it the same as other years.
- 2. Know you can stay home this year.** This year you may feel like staying at home, which is a normal part of grief and healing. But many people will insist—maybe even push—to get you out. Be honest with yourself. If you are overwhelmed and need the security of solace, give yourself permission to stay in. If you go to the party and are ambushed by extreme emotions, give yourself permission to thank the host and leave early.
- 3. Do something special for yourself.** Plan a time close to Christmas day to go to a good movie, do a little window shopping, drop into church for a prayer, or enjoy a special treat. It doesn't have to be lavish. If you'd rather stay home, then rent a favorite movie, cook a favorite meal, and cozy up in a way that comforts you.
- 4. Do something for someone else.** One of the best ways to come out of our misery is to help someone else. Volunteering brings many back to the reality that God is good and there are many things for which to be thankful. Others focus their attention on Christmas presents for the children.
- 5. Keep it simple.** Having a Christmas tree may cheer up some; but for others it will be too depressing. Sending Christmas cards can be very therapeutic; but for some it is a time-consuming and unnecessary expense. Re-examine everything you used to do during the holidays; keep what works and get rid of the rest.
- 6. Keep in touch with the children.** Children crave routine and rituals which give them a sense of security—especially holiday customs. Keep as many of the holiday routines that they best love. Ask what their favorites are and help them focus on the fun.
- 7. Don't celebrate with your ex.** Not unless it's been years, the kids are older, and you really do get along fairly well. It sounds good that you should all be able to get along at the holidays—but it's most often a myth. In most cases it confuses everyone, especially the children.
- 8. Help the children buy a present for their other parent.** Imagine how difficult it would be to get a present for mom or dad without any help. Some things should never change . . . like encouraging kids to love, honor, and respect both parents.
- 9. Draw close to God.** This holiday is about the answer to every person's prayer: God come to us in the flesh. Let Mary's kind eyes fall upon you and Joseph's strong gaze give you hope.
- 10. Go to Christmas Mass and rejoice in your heart.** On Christmas day your emotions may be extremely tender; the tears may flow and the cries of your heart may mix with the strains of "Silent Night." But come. Come as you are. Know that you are loved. Know that there is hope. Know that if you remain open to God through the crosses of life there *will* be resurrection and salvation. *This* is the hope we have in these holidays.

O come, let us adore our God made flesh in Jesus.



who

Two & Fall Three year olds!
A parent or an adult caregiver must be present.
Open to SFX school families, parishioners,
and community members.

what

Lil Falcon Fun: Play, sing, meet new friends!
A casual, play-based program that would provide an
opportunity to meet, socialize, and play together. Each
class will include fun with literacy, music and movement.
Younger siblings are welcome!

when

Monday mornings from 9:00-9:45 am
Twice a Month
January 14 & 28; February 11 & 25; March 11 & 25;
April 8 & 29 and May 6 & 20

where

SFX Early Childhood Building
21 N. Catherine, LaGrange
Room 25 (second floor)

why

Provide families an opportunity
to engage and develop a sense of community.

how

Register online at:
<https://goo.gl/forms/S7DIAehHMYTAcUt73>
Session fee is \$50/due at the first class.
(Space is limited. Checks payable to SFX)

We encourage all to follow
SFX School on social media:



SFX School Instagram:
[@sfxlg_school](https://www.instagram.com/sfxlg_school)

Facebook SFX School site:
<https://www.facebook.com/SFX.LG/>

Facebook SFX Alumni site:
<https://www.facebook.com/sfxlgalumni/>

SFX School Website:
<https://www.sfxlg.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/School>

Parish School Job Opening

Half-time PreK4 Teacher Assistant needed
Monday-Friday from 7:45am-12:45 pm.

Please contact Principal Sharon Garcia at
sgarcia@sfxlg.org or 708-352-2175.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Saturday evening 5:00pm Mass offers the
opportunity for children in Grades Kindergarten-Fourth
to experience hearing and reflecting on the Word of the
Lord in a way that is an empowering experience.
Children in these grades are invited to follow their
Reflector of the Word to a prayer space away from the
gathered assembly to hear the Scriptures in words they
can understand.

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place in church
whenever the children's choirs lead us in song/prayer.
The Scriptures we hear will then be taken from the
Children's Lectionary and the homily will be given in a
way that children are able to relate a little more readily.
The children in Grades K thru 4 will go to their prayer
space on the Saturdays that the choirs are not singing.

Here is the tentative schedule with the children's choirs:
January 5 & 26;
February 9 & 23;
March 2; April 6

Children in Grades K-4 will be invited to join their
Reflector in a prayer space away from the adults and to
hear the Word of the Lord in words they can better
understand on the following Saturdays (subject to
change):

January 12 & 19; February 2 & 16;
March 9, 16, 23, & 30; and April 27

You can call 708-352-0168 and direct your calls to:
Terri Simeoni, RE Coordinator
or
Allen Sterwalt, Director of Music



Box Tops For Education Collection

Please help in earning cash for our school. We would like
your help in collecting Box Tops For Education. There
will be a drop box located at the back of church in the
vestibule. Please place Box Tops that you have collected
inside.

Thank you for your help!

Religious Education Class Dates

Sundays

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| December 23 | No Class |
| December 30 | No Class |
| January 6 | At Home Lesson |
| January 13 | Class |
| January 20 | Class |
| January 27 | At Home Lesson |

Wednesdays

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| December 26 | No Class |
| January 2 | No Class |
| January 9 | At Home Lesson |
| January 16 | Class |
| January 23 | Class |
| January 30 | At Home Lesson |

Religious Education Important Dates

Grade 2 ~ Eucharistic Prep Liturgy
Sunday, January 13 at 1:30 pm in Church

Grade 5 ~ Reconciliation
Sunday, January 20 during Class Time in Chapel
Wednesday, January 23 during Class Time in Chapel

Grade 5 ~ Eucharistic Liturgy
January 20 at 12:00 Noon in Church

What's going on in Youth Ministry???

Giving Tree

THANK YOU to all who helped make the Giving Tree project possible, through donations and volunteering!

Freshman/Sophomore Retreat

Interested in being a Eucharistic Minister or Lector for the 6pm Mass? Talk to Katie McCarthy, the 6pm Sacristan, before or after a 6pm Mass or contact Olivia Zurowski at ozurowski@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168 to sign up!

Quest Confirmation Social Justice Retreat

If your teen is planning on attending the Feb 10 Social Justice retreat date, please register online! The link can be found on the Youth Ministry website.

2019 Summer Mission Trip



The 2019 Summer Mission Trip location has been determined: Springfield, KY! St. Francis has 30 (25 teens, 5 adults) spots reserved with Young Neighbors in Action for the June 23-28, 2019 trip to Springfield, KY. The registration form can be found on the Youth Ministry website. Contact Olivia Zurowski for more information.

SFX Family Outreach Ministry



Looking for a way for your family to ring in the new year in service to others? Join the Family Outreach Ministry at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) and help pack meals for the hungry. We've got 40 spots reserved on Saturday, December 29 from 11:30 am-11:30 pm at the FMSC facility in Aurora. At FMSC the two-hour session begins with an orientation. From there, the meals are packed by hand for the worlds hungriest children and some moments of prayer and reflection end the session. This service opportunity has a minimum age requirement of 5 years old and there is a 1-1 adult to child ratio for children in grades K-2. Contact Rachel Peterson to sign up peterstonrtw@sbcglobal.net.



The

HATS
 We Wear

THE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
 CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

2019 Ladies Pre-Lent Event

PROVERBS 31:31

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let
 her work bring her praise at the city gate."

Saturday, March 2, 2019

La Grange Country Club
 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Open House style, come and go as your schedule permits.

PASSED HORS D'OEUVRES AND FOOD STATIONS
 CASH BAR / LIVE MUSIC / BINGO / VENDORS

Register online at www.prelentevent.com

Catholic Women's Club

All women of the parish are members of the Catholic Women's Club. If you would like to get involved or if you would like to receive monthly newsletters about our upcoming events via email, please contact Tiziana Lambert at tizianalambert@gmail.com.

SFX Men's Club

All men of the parish are welcome.
 For further information, please contact:

Matt Hubert at mthubert@gmail.com or
 Joseph Enright at joseph_owen@hotmail.com.



Seasons of Hope

The loss of a loved one is a time of deep sorrow in our lives and grief is expressed in many ways. SEASONS OF HOPE is a faith-based, healing program for those who have suffered such a loss.

To begin healing does not mean forgetting — our loved ones will be remembered forever. We can however, deepen our spirituality and faith by reflecting and sharing while being guided toward a path of healing. Our hope is strengthened in the sure knowledge that one day we will be reunited with our loved ones.

Participants meet in a small group setting guided by leaders who care and can relate to the depth of your sorrow as they too have experienced the loss of a loved one.

SEASONS OF HOPE is co-sponsored by St. Francis Xavier and St. John of the Cross. The upcoming winter season will be at SFX.

Six Saturday mornings at 9:45 a.m.
 January 12, 19, 26 - February 2, 9, 16

To register, call our office 708-352-0168
 or do so at www.sfxlg.org

Butter 'Em Up and Sock it to 'Em!



The Congregation of St. Joseph is asking for your assistance to provide for two food pantries (St. Francis Xavier and St. James Parish) with two very important items this Christmas. Peanut butter is a great item because it doesn't spoil easily, is nutritious, goes a long way, and people of all ages love it. New, warm socks are a great gift during the wintertime.

Donations of peanut butter and socks will be accepted in the back of church December 15th through December 23rd. Donations will also be accepted at the Congregation of St. Joseph switchboard, 1515 West Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park, from December 9th through December 20th. Thank you!



Any questions?
 Contact sarahsmiles17@yahoo.com
 or 708-296-1931.

AVE, MARIA
 gratia plena
 Dominus tecum

Hail, Mary
 full of grace
 the Lord is with thee



REGISTRATION FORM

Have you been feeling like something is missing? Do you need a jump start in your faith journey? Do you need some time away with God? Join women just like you from our parish at the 2019 **WELCOME Women's Retreat!** Through stories, prayer, fellowship, and more you will find rest, be refreshed, and witness a new perspective on how God sees you and just how much you are loved. All women, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, are **WELCOME!**

Women's WELCOME Retreat Weekend

Saturday, February 2 - Sunday, February 3, 2019

Carmelite Spiritual Center

8419 Bailey Road

Darien, IL

Please **arrive between 8:00 - 8:30 am on Saturday**; we will **conclude around 3:00 pm on Sunday**. For questions, please contact Therese Bryne at (708) 588.0845

Scholarships are available — please contact Father Bill Tkachuk

You may complete the registration and pay online (please see our Facebook link below), place the registration form/payment in the collection basket or drop off at the Rectory to the attention of Jane Bandyk along with payment (payable to St. Francis Xavier Parish).



Women's Retreat Weekend



February 2 - 3, 2019

_____ **Single Occupancy: \$140**

_____ **Double Occupancy: \$120; Room with:** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Music preference: (please check): CD **OR** Digital Playlist

Emergency Contact

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please list two people we may contact to ask to pray for you while on the **WELCOME** retreat (optional)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please visit our Facebook page for more details
<https://www.facebook.com/WelcomeWomenSFX/>



Please Pray For...all those Serving Overseas in the Military including:

- **Sgt. David Phillips**—brother of Rebecca Casiple
- **Commander Robert O'Donnell**—son of Agnes O'Donnell
- **Staff Sgt. Bryan Pickens, U.S. Army Airborne Ranger 1-75th Ranger Battalion RGR REGT**—
son of Rob & Bernadette Pickens and brother of Robert & Gabriel
- **Lt. Christopher Ocasio, U.S. Army**—friend of the Berger Family
- **Technical Sgt. Rhonda Russell, USAF**—daughter of Deidre & John Russell and granddaughter of Mary F. Russell
- **Lt. Jonathan Devitt Brown, U.S. Navy**—nephew of the Devitt Family
- **LCPL Gregory Allen, USMC**—nephew of Barbara Triggs & Anthony Anscombe
- **Kevin Peterson, U.S. Army Infantry, Major Marcos Melendez, USMC and Major Michelle Melendez, USMC**—
son, nephew and niece of Jon Peterson
- **Sgt. Nolan Kemna, USMC**—nephew of John & Linda Hill
- **Capt. Maura Hoffman & Capt. Christopher Hoffman**—niece and nephew of Margie & Steve Hull and
cousins of Kate, Janie & Caroline Hull
- **Phil Lukanich, U.S. Navy & Lt. M. Ryan Lukanich, U.S. Army**—husband and brother-in-law of Joanna and
sons of Mark & Martie Lukanich
- **Master Sgt. Andrew Lang**—son of Marge & Ray Lang
- **Staff Sgt. Scott Blunk**—husband of Brianne and son-in-law of Maureen Becker
- **Lt. Daniel McGue**—grandson of Jack & Sue Ryan
- **Lt. Col. Jeremy Hutchins, USAF**—brother-in-law of Valerie & Michael Schierl
- **Commander Brian Riegler, U.S. Navy**—husband of Elizabeth and father of Kaylee, Mackenzie, Grace & Liam
- **Capt. Colt Marcyan, USMC**—nephew of Noel Cusack
- **Capt. Trent McMullen, USAF**—son-in-law of Tom & Maureen Hunt
- **Private William Baker, U.S. Army**—son of Meg & Barry Baker
- **Private Jerry Delgado, U.S. Army**—friend of Liz Wilk
- **Spec Timothy Lucas U.S. Army**—grandson of Marian, nephew of Rosemary and Sr. Kathleen Lucas,
and Kate & Beau Medlock
- **Deanna Ciaccia, U.S. Navy**—daughter of Julia & Anthony Ciaccia and granddaughter of Harold Held
- **Chris Johnson, USCG**—nephew of Judi Kudlacz and grandson of Jerry & Nancy Johnson
- **Michael Rodden, USAF & Christopher Osterhaus, USMC**—son and nephew of John & Vicki Rodden
- **Dominic James Greco, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Rita Pantoni
- **Robert Weiler, U.S. Navy**—brother of Rebecca Dionisio
- **Joseph Somers, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Maureen & Nick Burriesci
- **Major Meghan Cumpston, U.S. Army**—cousin of Lauren Schultz
- **Sgt. David T. Benson**—son of Linda & Charles Benson

**Please inform us of those serving in the Military Overseas...
and please let us know when friends and loved ones
return from their deployment Overseas.
Email the bulletineditor@sfxlg.org.**

St. Francis Xavier Personnel

Pastoral Ministry

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Deacon
Pastoral Associate
Weekend Sacramental Ministers
Weekend Sacramental Ministers

Rev. William Tkachuk
Rev. William Killeen
Mr. Andrew Allison
Dr. Kate DeVries
Rev. Stan Ilo
Rev. Keith Muccino, S.J.

wtkachuk@sfxlg.org
 bkilleen@sfxlg.org
 aallison@sfxlg.org
 kdevries@sfxlg.org

Education Ministry

Day School Principal
Assistant Principal
Assistant to Day School Principal
Day School Secretary (Main Campus)
Day School Secretary (East Campus)
Coordinator (East Campus)
Advancement Director
Tuition Accounts
Religious Education Coordinator/Sacrament Prep
Religious Education Office Staff
Religious Education Office Staff

Mrs. Sharon Garcia
Mrs. Janice Carr
Mrs. Mary Hoffman
Mrs. Peggy Evans
Mrs. Kathie Kinahan
Mrs. Margaret Houston
Mrs. Mary Tassi
Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft
Ms. Terri Simeoni
Mrs. Cindy Johnson
Ms. Debra Soulje

sgarcia@sfxlg.org
 jcarr@sfxlg.org
 mhoffman@sfxlg.org
 pevans@sfxlg.org
 kkinahan@sfxlg.org
 mhouston@sfxlg.org
 mtassi@sfxlg.org
 jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
 tsimeoni@sfxlg.org
 cjohnson@sfxlg.org
 dsoulje@sfxlg.org

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Mrs. Olivia Zurowski

ozurowski@sfxlg.org

Music Ministry

Director

Mr. Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Staff

Business Manager
Parish Accountant
Pastor's Secretary
Parish Secretary
Staff Secretary

Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft
Ms. Jane Bandyk
Mrs. Maureen Pipal
Mrs. Melissa Westerhoff
Ms. Debra Soulje

jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
 jbandyk@sfxlg.org
 mpipal@sfxlg.org
 mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org
 dsoulje@sfxlg.org

Food Pantry/Community Outreach

Coordinator

Mrs. Mary Freeman

mfreeman@sfxlg.org

Contact Information

Parish Office 124 N. Spring708-352-0168
 St. Francis Xavier Day School708-352-2175
 School of Religious Education708-352-4555
 S.P.R.E.D. (Special Religious Education)708-352-0168
 Fax Number708-352-4904
 e-Mailsfxinlg@sfxlg.org
 Main Day School e-Mail.....sfxmain@sfxlg.org
 Main Religious Education e-Mail.....sfxreligiused@sfxlg.org
 Parish Web Sitewww.sfxlg.org

Rectory Hours

Monday-Thursday..... 8:30 am-8:30 pm
 Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm
 Saturday.....9:00 am-5:00 pm
 Sunday.....9:00 am-1:00 pm

Sabbath Liturgy

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, 12:00 Noon and
 (6:00 pm September until first weekend of May)
 Holy Days of Obligation as scheduled in bulletin.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday morning.....After 9:00 am Mass
 Saturday afternoon.....4:15 pm
 The Reconciliation room is located off the walkway behind the
 tabernacle prayer area.

Liturgy Schedule

Monday through Wednesday7:45 and 9:00 am
 Thursday.....9:00 am
 Friday.....7:45 am
 Saturday.....9:00 am

Word Communion Services

Thursday.....7:45 am
 Friday.....9:00 am

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submitting all bulletin articles is 12:00 pm on the Friday preceding the Sunday of publication. If a holiday falls on a Monday, articles are due by 12:00 Noon on the previous Thursday. Please email all articles to the bulletineditor@sfxlg.org.

Domestic Violence Resources

Family Shelter Services—24 hr. counseling 630-469-5650
 LaGrange Police Emergency Assistance 911 or 708-579-2354

Food Pantry

The St. Francis Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. The pantry serves clients who live in the 60525 and 60526 zip codes.

Home or Hospital Visitation & Communion Calls

If you would like a priest or Minister of Care to visit, please contact the Parish Office directly. In the case of hospitalization, specifically request that the hospital contact the parish. Hospitals do not routinely inform churches of admissions due to Privacy Laws.

Infant Baptisms

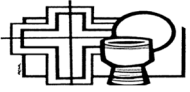
Please call the Parish Office for scheduled 1:30 pm Sunday Baptismal dates. Baptism Preparation Classes: 4th Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm. We encourage participation in this program before the baby's birth or adoption.

Marriage

Please call the rectory office at the time of your engagement to schedule your wedding. We ask that you are a registered parishioner for 6 months before requesting your wedding date. Saturday wedding times are 1:00 and 3:00 pm. Rehearsals are usually scheduled on Friday evening. We do not schedule weddings during Lent.

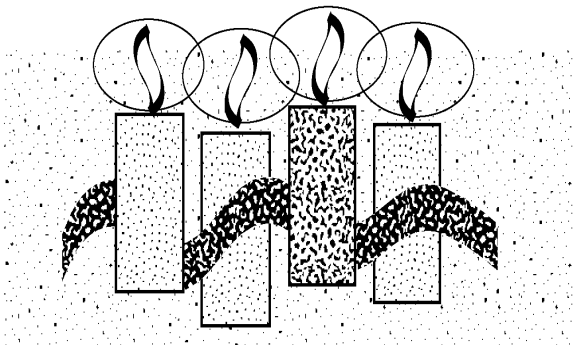
Parish Counselor

All counseling services are confidential, respectful, understanding, and take place in a safe environment. Counseling and psychotherapy services are available for individuals, couples, and families experiencing difficulty with anxiety, depression, grief, relationship conflicts, work stress or job loss problems, or feelings of being overwhelmed. For further information or to make an appointment, call our parish counselor, Nancy Kennedy, 708-325-8582 at the Claret Center or email nkennedy4@luc.edu.



Liturgical Ministers' Schedule—December 29-30, 2018

| Mass Time | Presider | Lectors/ Commentators | Ministers of Communion | Altar Servers | Cantors | Greeters |
|-----------|-------------|--|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 5:00 PM | Fr. Killeen | K. Prenger D. Newcomb L. Young | L. Bannach M. Becker T. Conwell K. Corrigan S. Devitt J. Denson D. Dunlap M. Milligan K. Presussner | E. Cushing | A. Cherry | P. Devitt |
| 7:30 AM | Fr. Tkachuk | S. Lindsay M. Kalkowski G. Rutkowski | S. Augustyn M. Hermesdorf K. Stetz J. Van Gorp D. Walsh | E. Sifferman | K. DeVries | C. Urbain |
| 9:00 AM | Fr. Killeen | B. Olson L. Nichol G. Prendergast | M. Branecki V. Bracht D. Carlson J. Cogelja C. Froemel E. Froemel A. Gargano B. McMahon J. Prendergast | B. McGovern | K. Fron | G. Nalumansi |
| 10:30 AM | Fr. Tkachuk | C. Moroney M. Atseff J. Eraci | A. Clark J. Clark L. Egan M. Joscelyn A. Krol S. Martin J. Nowak B. Sorice K. Witkowski | D. Collins | C. Jakubisin | P. Sbertoli |
| 12:00 PM | Fr. Killeen | M. Dillon D. Lewis I. Havenaar | L. Donegan B. Edelmann C. Gatsos K. Johnson N. L. Kampe | B. Culin | T. Pangan | O. Lozano |
| 6:00 PM | Fr. Killeen | Quest Teen | Quest Teens | | Spirit Choir | |



Readings For The Week of December 23, 2018

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
 Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
 Tuesday: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Friday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Mt 2:13-18
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52